

1955

THE RURAL DISTRICT

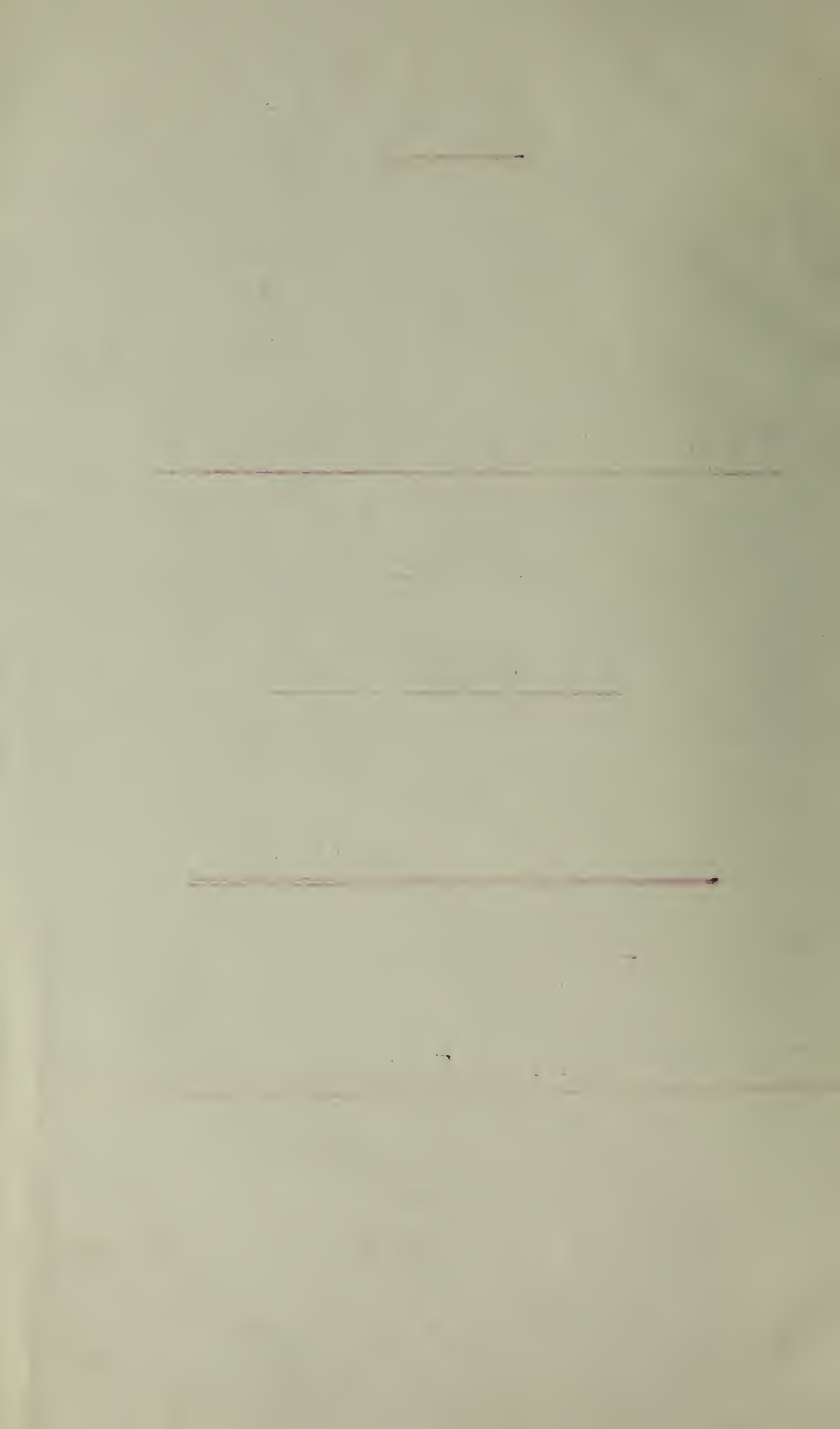
- OF -

ST. AUSTELL

ANNUAL REPORT

- OF THE -

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH



To the Chairman and Councillors of the
Rural District of St. Austell.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present the Annual Report on the Health and Sanitary Circumstances of the District for the year 1955.

The year was abnormally dry and there were long hours of sunshine. The result was that although people benefited from the fine weather, an acute water shortage was precipitated, the effects of which are likely to extend into 1956.

The preliminary survey of houses under the Slum Clearance Scheme indicates that only 3% are considered to be unsuitable or of being made suitable for human occupation.

The vital records are again satisfactory and compare favourably with those for the United Kingdom.

I am indebted to Mr. Townsend, the Council's Engineer and to Mr. Lawless, the Chief Sanitary Inspector for considerable portions of this report and to them and to other Council Officers, I wish to express my thanks.

It is a pleasure to record thanks to the Chairman and Members of the Public Health Committee for their continued interest and support.

I have the honour to be

Your obedient Servant,

JAMES TURNER.

SECTION A.

Natural and Social Conditions of the Area.

Area (in acres)	82,389.
Population (Mid-year 1955) (Estimated)	21,800
Number of inhabited houses	6,648
Rateable Value	£ 91,719
Product of a penny rate	£ 361.

As elsewhere in Cornwall, there is a marked seasonal rise in population during the holiday period and this leads to many special public health problems such as those related to camping, to marginal water supplies in dry years and to sewage disposal. The main occupations are clayworking and agriculture. The latter is of course a healthy occupation and so also is the former, except where china stone is quarried.

The District extends across the breadth of the County and has a northern and southern seaboard. As a result, there are two types of climate - the northern more bracing with slightly more sunshine and a slightly lower temperature than the southern, which is mild with prevailing S.W. winds. The mean annual temperature is about 51°F.

Rainfall. The rainfall for the year, as recorded on the gauge, maintained at Hendra Pumping Station, amounted to 40.01 inches. The wettest month was January when 7.00 inches of rain fell. The driest month was August with 0.16 inches. The total rainfall for July and August was only 0.58 inches and during this 62 day period, there were 52 days without rain. From 19th July to 8th August there were 21 consecutive dry days.

Summary of Vital Statistics.

<u>Live Births</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Rate/1,000 Population</u> <u>Rural dist. England & Wales.</u>
Legitimate	134	133	261	12. 9
Illegitimate	9	5		

For comparison with other areas rate corrected for age and sex distribution	13. 5	15. 0
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<u>Still Births</u>			<u>Rate/1,000 Total Live & Still Births</u>
Legitimate	4	2	20. 9
Illegitimate	-	-	
		6	23. 1

<u>Deaths</u>			<u>Rate/1,000 Population</u>
	134	99	10. 7

For comparison with other areas rate corrected for age and sex distribution	9. 7	11. 7
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<u>Maternal Mortality</u>			<u>Rate/1,000 Total Births</u>
	-	0	0.64

<u>Infant Mortality</u> (Deaths under 1 yr of age)			<u>Rate/1,000 Live Births</u>
Legitimate	2	3	17. 1
Illegitimate	-	-	
		5	24. 9

The following table gives the causes of infant deaths :-

Cause	Age in weeks					Total
	Under 1 week	2	3	4	5 weeks 12 months	
Prematurity	3	-	-	-	-	3
Cerebral Haemorrhage	1	-	-	-	-	1
Suffocation (Inspiral food)	-	-	-	-	1	1
	4	-	-	-	1	5

The improvement in infant mortality has been maintained.

The loss of life due to prematurity and still births is very considerable and with increasing knowledge should be prevented.

The following is an abbreviated list of the causes of death of persons of all ages:-

	M.	F.
1) Tub: of resp: sys:	2	3
2) Tuberculosis, other	-	-
3) Syphilitic disease	-	-
4) Diphtheria	-	-
5) Whooping Cough	-	-
6) Meningococcal infections	-	-
7) Acute poliomyelitis	-	-
8) Measles	-	-
9) Other infective and parasitic diseases	-	-
10) Malignant neoplasm, stomach	1	3
11) Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	2	-
12) Malignant neoplasm, breast	-	6
13) Malignant neoplasm, uterus	-	3
14) Other malig. & lymphatic neoplasms	11	7
15) Leukæmia, aleukæmia	1	-
16) Diabetes	1	-
17) Vascular lesions of nervous system	11	17
18) Coronary disease, angina	22	10
19) Hypertension with heart disease	2	3
20) Other heart disease	29	24
21) Other circulatory disease	7	-
22) Influenza	1	2
23) Pneumonia	1	-
24) Bronchitis	9	1
25) Other diseases of respiratory system	3	2
26) Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	-	-
27) Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	-	-
28) Nephritis and nephrosis	2	4
29) Hyperplasia of prostate	9	-
30) Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	-	-
31) Congenital malformations	-	-
32) Other defined and ill-defined diseases	7	11
33) Motor vehicle accidents	3	1
34) All other accidents	5	2
35) Suicide	5	-
36) Homicide and operations of war	-	-
All causes :	134	99

Malignant disease caused 14.6% of all deaths, motor vehicles and other accidents 4.7%.

Since 1950, twelve male and two female deaths have been recorded as due to cancer of the lung or bronchus. This is 8.5% of all deaths due to malignant disease.

The following short table gives the percentage distribution of ages at death :-

<u>Age Group</u>	<u>Males %</u>	<u>Females %</u>
0 - 1	1.5	3.0
1 - 59	22.0	20.8
60 - 69	22.0	20.8
70 - 79	26.5	26.7
80 - 89	23.5	25.7
90 +	4.5	3.0

SECTION B.

Public Health Officers of the Local Authority

(a) Medical Officer of Health

J.G.S.Turner, M.B., D.P.H., 1st Jan - 31st Dec.

(b) Sanitary Inspectors (Whole time)

H.G.Lawless, A.R.S.I., M.S.I.A., Food Inspectors' Certificate.
T.J.Down, M.R.S.I.,

Laboratory Facilities

These are available at the Royal Cornwall Infirmary, Truro, where all material for investigation is sent.

Diphtheria Prophylaxis

In addition to supplies of diphtheria prophylactic previously available, supplies of whooping cough vaccine and of tetanus antigen in varying combinations are now available at the Health Area Office and can be obtained by Medical Practitioners on request.

Ambulance facilities

These are provided from the main centres at St. Austell and Newquay and in addition from country centres at Indian Queens, Fowey and St. Blazey. The work carried out from the above centres during the year is shown in the following table. About one-third of the patients carried belonged to the Rural District.

		<u>Patients</u>	<u>Miles</u>
(a) Ambulance	St. Austell and Newquay	3,914	61,246
(b) Utilicons	St. Austell and Newquay	11,414	84,930
(c) Hospital Car Service	St. Austell and Newquay	7,445	81,012
(d) Country Centre Ambulances	Indian Queens, Fowey and St. Blazey	597	18,802

Thanks are due to the voluntary organisations who helped, to Mrs. Batchelor and Miss Boldock, Organisers of the Hospital Car Service, and to many ladies and gentlemen who provided transport on request.

Nursing Services.

The establishment of nurses who carry out domiciliary services is as follows :-

District Nurse - Midwife - Health Visitor	11
Whole-time Health Visitor	1
Tuberculosis Health Visitor	1

The services provided have worked smoothly.

Domiciliary Midwifery

All nurses are now trained in the use of gas/air anaesthesia and this is available to all patients. About 60% of women have their babies at home.

Ante-Natal Care

There are no ante-natal clinics in the rural area and all pregnant women are referred either to St. Austell or to Newquay.

Infant Welfare.

The centre at Roche has continued to be very successful with an average attendance of 9.9. The centre at Indian Queens has averaged 29.1 and the centre at St. Dennis 22.2 and the new centre at Summercourt 18.8.

The success of these centres is partly due to the help by voluntary workers for whom there is still great opportunity for service to the community.

The Infant Welfare Centres provide a most convenient place for immunisation.

Care and After Care.

One case of tuberculosis was helped by grants from the County.

Young children on discharge from hospital are followed up by the District Nurses.

Domestic Help Service.

This Service has worked well, but difficulty has been experienced during the summer months in obtaining spare-time helps. At the end of the year, the establishment was increased to the equivalent of seven full-time helps.

Thanks are due to Miss Stokes and to the ladies who assist her in organising this Service. A total of 110 persons, of whom 8 were maternity cases, were given help.

Hospitals.

There is no hospital in the district and cases are sent to Newquay, Fowey and St. Austell District Hospitals, to the R.C.I., at Truro for special investigations and treatment, to Redruth in the case of maternity and to the Isolation Hospital at Truro in the case of infectious diseases.

Clinics.

The following clinics are held at the places and dates indicated :-

Child Welfare { St. Austell - Moorland Road - 1st and 3rd Wednesday
 { Newquay - Ambulance Hall - Weekly - Thursday
 { Par - Gott Hall - 2nd and 4th Tuesday
 { Roche - Church Hall - 1st and 4th Tuesday
 { Indian Queens - Ambulance Hall - 3rd Wednesday
 { St. Dennis - Methodist Sunday School - 4th Thursday
 { Summercourt - Memorial Hall - 2nd Wednesday.

Ante-Natal (St. Austell - Moorland Road - Weekly - Monday forenoon
 (Newquay - Hospital - Weekly - Monday afternoon

Orthopaedic (St. Austell - Moorland Road - Tuesday forenoon
 (Newquay - Hospital - Weekly - Monday

Tuberculosis (St. Austell - Hospital - Weekly - Monday
 (Newquay - Hospital - 1st, 3rd and 5th Tuesday

Tuberculosis (St. Austell - 1st Monday and last Tuesday (afternoon)
 Contacts (Newquay - 3rd Tuesday (afternoon)

Dental (St. Austell - Moorland Road - every day
 (Newquay - Berry Road - thrice weekly

Ophthalmic (St. Austell - Aylmer Place - 2nd and 4th Wednesday
 (Newquay - Hospital - by arrangement

E.N.T. (St. Austell - Moorland Road - by arrangement
 (Newquay - Hospital - by arrangement

SECTION C.

Sanitary Conditions

(1) Water (i) New Schemes

(a) Bears Down Water Supply Scheme

This scheme, which has been approved in principle by the Ministry of Housing and Local Government, is still held up due to the Wadebridge R.D.C. being unable to state definite terms for the supplies of water in bulk. All contract details are prepared so that no time will be lost in the execution of the scheme as soon as agreement has been reached.

(b) Fowey River Joint Water Scheme

Negotiations in connection with this scheme have proceeded throughout the year. The Borough of Lostwithiel have rejoined as a participating Authority and the Truro R.D.C. who, early in the year, agreed to participate, have now decided to withdraw. The scheme and details which were prepared with Truro R.D.C. as a participant had to be completely revised on their withdrawal and this has involved delay in submission to the Ministry. The new details should, however, be ready for submission early in 1956.

(ii) Existing Schemes

(a) Analyses

During the year a total of 169 samples of water taken from various public supplies were submitted for bacteriological analysis with the following results :-

	<u>Satisfactory</u>	<u>Unsatisfactory</u>	<u>Total</u>
Treated water	55	Nil	55
Untreated water	63	6	69
Village Wells and Pumps	29	16	45
	<u>147</u>	<u>22</u>	<u>169</u>

(b) Availability of Supplies

The dry summer caused grave difficulties in the maintenance of supplies throughout the district and restrictions in supply had to be imposed at the places and between the dates shown in the following tabulation:-

<u>Area served by the source at -</u>	<u>Dates when supply restricted</u>
Trewoon	16th July to 15th December
St. Columb Major	2nd August to 15th November
Grampound	18th October to 5th November
Talskiddy (St. Mawgan Scheme)	26th August to 21st October

At Trewoon the restricted supply could only be maintained as a result of assistance given by the Cornwall County Fire Brigade in pumping water from Halviggan Pit. At St. Columb, the well was pumped dry, but the supply was maintained after a submersible pump had been installed in a bore-hole below the well bottom.

At Golant the situation was probably worse than anywhere else in the district. The supply was totally inadequate and there was no ready means of supplementing it. The few hundred gallons which were available each day were pumped to the reservoir and distributed within a matter of an hour after which nothing could be done until the same operation next day. Villagers supplemented this very meagre supply by drawing from the one or two wells in the neighbourhood, but the situation throughout the summer and autumn was very serious indeed.

At St. Wenn, Churchtown, Tregonetha and Belowda, the village wells failed and water had to be carted to the district between 2nd August and 15th December.

(c) Mains relaying

The old, inadequate mains serving Carloggas, St. Stephen, Cleers Hill, Whitemoor and Trelavour Downs, St. Dennis were relaid either in whole or in part during the year, resulting in much improved supplies to consumers.

(d) Enniscaven Supply

The new collecting reservoir, suction pipeline and hand pump were installed in February and have given an improved supply to the inhabitants. The improvement was particularly noticeable during the dry weather.

(e) Roche Reservoir - Limestone Contact Bed

In an endeavour to reduce the acidity of the water at Roche, a limestone contact bed was constructed in January. Although small scale tests showed the possibility of very satisfactory results, the full-scale effect has been disappointing. Some improvement has, however, resulted.

(f) General

The past year has demonstrated very clearly the very real and urgent need to supplement the water supplies of this District from sources which are less affected by periods of dry weather than are those now in use.

The present normal demand for water is approximately 280,000 gallons per day which is increased by as much as 40% in times of drought. At the same time the known minimum yield of the existing sources is 272,000 gallons per day. These figures indicate the extent to which restrictions in supply are necessary whenever there is insufficient rainfall to keep the demand down and the output of the sources maintained. They apply, also, to those parishes which at present have piped supplies.

The estimated peak demand when the whole district is supplied with water is 850,000 gallons per day.

These problems have been recognised for many years and the Council have supported and pursued the major schemes for supplementation. It is now 21 years since a decision was made to supplement the supplies to the Northern parishes by participating in the Wadebridge De Lank scheme and 12 years since the publication of the first report of the major De Lank Scheme.

The demand for water increases year by year not only for domestic consumption but also for agricultural, commercial and industrial use. Whereas the major schemes may have been of the nature of long-term policies when first considered, they are now of immediate necessity, not merely to ensure reasonable reserves against estimates of future consumption but to enable supplies now being demanded to be met in full at times when the need is greatest.

The Bears Down and Fowey River Schemes will fulfil these requirements and their construction should be pressed forward with all possible speed.

(g) Private Water Supplies

A total of 16 samples were taken from private water supplies, with the following results :-

Satisfactory	7
Reasonably Safe	2
Unfit for Drinking	7

In one of these cases, work recommended proved effective and in two others sterilizing filters were recommended and installed. In the others, the users were advised to boil water before consumption.

The privately owned supply to the village of St. Michael Caerhays has been improved in quality by the installation of another filter and chlorination equipment. The supply is now safe and adequate.

(2) Sewerage and Sewage Disposal

(a) Trewoon and Polgooth Sewerage

Tenders for the construction of this scheme will be invited early in the year 1956 with a view to construction being commenced during the summer. Approximately two years will be required for its completion.

(b) Grampound Sewerage

A revised scheme was approved by the Council in the Autumn and it will be submitted for ministerial approval as soon as the comments of the other interested Authorities have been obtained.

(c) Fraddon Sewerage

A scheme will be submitted for the Council's consideration early in 1956.

(d) St. Dennis Sewage Works - Reconstruction

This scheme was submitted for ministerial approval in April 1955 but no decision has yet been received.

(e) St. Stephen Sewerage - Reconstruction

A scheme to provide a solution to the problem of the overloaded works at Gwindra and Terras is completed but is being retained for the time being until the Ministry's observations on the St. Dennis proposals are known.

(f) Roche Sewage Works - Reconstruction

Investigations prior to the preparation of a scheme have been commenced.

(g) Existing Sewage Disposal Works - Sludge Removal

Sludge drying beds have now been constructed on all works except Terras and St. Dennis. In August a new mobile sludge pump was purchased and brought into operation. It is working satisfactorily and there is every hope that improved effluents will result although this work is insufficient in itself to produce satisfactory effluents.

(h) Cesspool Emptying

The work of the vehicle during the year has included the following:-

305	emptyings of	privately owned cesspools
126	"	" Council Houses
150	"	" Lane Slaughterhouse cesspools
47	"	" Cesspools outside the Rural District

Until the introduction of the mobile sludge pump, the cesspool emptying vehicle was again used for desludging tanks at sewage disposal works.

(3) Disinfection and Disinfestation of Houses

Happily a very infrequent task. Four houses were disinfected and two disinfested.

(4) Rodent Control

One operator with 10 cwt. Van. His duties include servicing of the Council's tips, sewage works, etc., as well as domestic and trade premises. The poison "Warfarin" has proved a great improvement, both in operative techniques and results. Your operator attended a Ministry Course of Instruction.

Summary of Work 1955

No. of properties inspected

Domestic	1145
Business	356
Agricultural	360

No. of properties treated for major infestations	19
" " " " minor	1513

The Annual Test Baiting of all the Foul Systems of Sewers was carried out in May and June. Out of a total of 376 manholes in the systems 109 were baited and complete takes recorded in 23. A further maintenance treatment is being carried out in the New Year.

(5) Nuisances

In addition to a number of small nuisances, attention was directed to four connected with local industry. One was about dust from Clay processing plants, one about dust from a clay waste dump, one caused by sulphurous fumes and dust from a clay products works and one caused by a county council stone crushing and tarmac works. In all these cases, informal action was taken and all are abated or suitable action is promised by those concerned. Statutory notices were served in six cases, with success.

(6) Beaches

There are three popular and much frequented beaches. The largest has no public convenience and the Council intends to provide one as soon as permitted. Another beach is privately owned, the sanitary conveniences are inadequate and insanitary and following informal action, the owner has submitted plans for the construction of proper facilities before the 1956 season.

(7) Public Cleansing and Refuse Disposal

Three vehicles serve most of the district by a weekly collection. One tip has been finished and two others started. A modified form of controlled tipping is employed. The rounds were reorganised during the year for greater efficiency, division of amount of work between the vehicles and journeys to tips. A new vehicle of larger capacity will shortly replace our oldest one and it is to be the first diesel engined lorry operated by the Council. In order to save dead mileage, we have co-operated with a neighbouring Council, to our mutual advantage, by collection from a few houses in each other's district. Another Council has also co-operated by allowing us to use its tip, saving considerable lorry mileage. In the case of still another neighbouring Council, arrangements have been made for us to collect from a small number of houses to save them considerable mileage.

(8) Public Conveniences

We have seven and at least two more are to be built when possible.

(9) Caravan Sites

Five sites were licensed and two others will be when certain improvements to sanitary accommodation are effected. The Council have revised their Code of Regulations for the control of sites to bring them into line with planning and up-to-date sanitary and other requirements.

(10) Public Houses

The sanitary, glass washing and other arrangements of the 28 licensed houses were investigated. In one case only were conditions rather bad and in another some minor works were found desirable. The Breweries concerned have promised to do necessary work. In another case, informal action resulted in a small sewage works involving pumping being provided at a cost of about £500.

(11) Petrol Stations

The Senior Sanitary Inspector is also Petroleum Officer and investigations of the 74 Filling and Storage Stations showed almost complete absence of notices requiring engines to be switched off and no smoking when pumps are in use.

Strong action is being taken by the Council to ensure compliance with licensing conditions requiring notices and proper fire extinguishing equipment.

(12) River Pollution

A rather bad case of sewage pollution came under notice and the facts were reported to the Officer of the Cornwall River Board.

SECTION D.

Housing

Housing Application Current - Dec. 1955.

Total No. live applications	183
No. from families without separate houses	55
No. " " in unfit houses	43
No. " " " overcrowded conditions	16
No. of unmarried persons applying	8
No. applying for other reasons (proximity to work, etc.)	61

Type of Houses needed by applicants

1 Bedroom	1
2 " "	72
3 " "	70
4 " "	5

Unclassified 35

Houses built by the Council.

(i) New traditional houses

(a) Edgcumbe Crescent, Roche.

The erection of 16 Cornish Unit type "M" houses was completed by 30th June, 1955.

(ii) Traditional Houses

The following houses were completed and occupied during the year:-

High Cross, St. Columb	22
Highfield Avenue, St. Columb	2
Beaconside, Summercourt	14

38

⌘ (A.P. bungalows)

By the end of the year, all dwellings scheduled in the Council's

housing programme had been completed and there were, therefore, none under construction.

(iii) Acquired properties

Two houses, Nos. 9 and 11, Fair Street, St. Columb, were purchased and adapted for housing one of the families previously occupying a hut at Treloy Camp.

(iv) Summary of Housing Progress

Dwellings occupied	1. 1. 55	702
"	during 1955	55
TOTAL:		<u>757</u>

Pre-war houses	237
Ennisworkey adaptation	1
Post-war conversions	5
Post-war constructions	514
TOTAL:	757

Private Enterprise Building

No. erected during year - 29.

Slum Clearance

The preliminary estimate of the extent of the problem, as reported to the Minister, is : - No. of Houses requiring condemnation 212 (including one clearance area of 12). The programme is to clear them and complete re-housing in five years.

Detailed surveys were made of two parishes (Roche and St. Dennis) and some houses were dealt with elsewhere when there appeared to be a danger of them being re-let. This led to 50 demolition orders being made and one still awaits decision. The survey continues.

Improvement Grants

During the year, grants were approved in 30 cases, making a total to date of 81. The grants are now one-third of the approved total cost.

To the end of 1955, the total number of applications considered was 93, with the following results :-

Approved	81
Not approved	12

Of the 81 approved, 22 were withdrawn, 2 await provision of satisfactory water supply and 16 are completed and payment made.

Sale of Suspected Property

In order to safeguard the public, the Council advertised through the press, that their officers should be asked about the probable fate of any aged property that might be offered for sale.

SECTION E.

Inspection and Supervision of Food.

Milk

This district is now part of a special area in which all milk sold by retail must be specially Designated, i.e. Pasteurised, or T.T. and in bottles. All the Pasteurised milk comes from two large creameries outside the district. There are 25 licences to sell T.T. and Pasteurised milk by this Authority.

Ice Cream

The total number of premises now registered for the sale of pre-packed ice-cream is now 88. No ice-cream is manufactured in the district and most is pre-packed. The vans of itinerant vendors are inspected for cleanliness and the provision of proper washing facilities.

Meat Inspection

The number of licenced slaughterhouses in the district remains at 13; 12 are operated by individual butchers and one by a syndicate trading as wholesalers. The latter is near Newquay, whose Council staff undertake the inspection.

100% inspection at the private slaughterhouses continues, and the figures show that a high standard is maintained, particularly in the type of beef animal used. In the table below, the striking freedom from trouble among sheep and lambs, as indicated by the absence of disease in livers because of fluke infestation, is explained by the fact that hardly any mutton is sold, sales being mainly lamb in the season

Carcases and Offal inspected and condemned in whole or in part.

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Horses
Number killed	1142	11	1	1050	1596	-
Number inspected	1142	11	1	1050	1596	-
<u>All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci</u>						
Whole carcasses condemned	-	-	-	1	-	-
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	225	5	-	-	-	-
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis and cysticerci	19.7	45.5	-	.1	-	-
<u>Tuberculosis only</u>						
Whole carcasses condemned	1	-	-	-	-	-
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	47	2	-	-	44	-
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	4.2	18.2	-	-	2.8	-
Cysticercosis	No carcasses affected					

Particulars of Condemnations

Tuberculosis

1 Carcase beef and offal complete
33 Ox lungs
18 Ox heads
3 Ox livers
4 Fore quarters beef
1 Brisket beef
41 Pigs heads

Other diseases

Cirrhosis & Necrosis	93 Ox livers
	147 part Ox livers
Pyæmia	1 Ox liver
Actinomycosis	1 Ox head
	1 Ox lung
Bruising	1 Ox flank
Emaciation & Dropsy	1 Sheep

Other Foods and Premises

The number of food premises, butchers shops, bakeries and cafes remains substantially the same and inspections carried out from time to time show that there is generally little to complain of. The following foods were condemned :-

Tinned foods	35 tins
Frozen chicken	197

Some Chinese Liquid Egg, which appeared abnormal, was sent for bacteriological examination and the result showed it to be harmless.

SECTION F.

Prevalence of and control over infectious and other diseases

The following notifications of infectious diseases were received :-

		<u>Rate per 1,000 population</u>		
Disease	1955 No. of cases	St. Austell Rural 1954	1955	England and Wales 1955
Measles	49	6.18	2.24	15.6
Acute Pneumonia	5	0.18	0.23	0.63
Scarlet Fever	1	0.23	0.05	0.73
Whooping Cough	1	2.10	0.05	1.78
Poliomyelitis (paralytic)	2	0.00	0.10	0.08

The two cases of poliomyelitis occurred in an isolated hamlet which had a low level of general hygiene. It is thought that the son of the first case acquired the disease in a mild undiagnosed form during the late Summer and was the source of the local outbreak. The outbreak caused considerable local alarm and led to the exclusion of a group of about 15 children from school for several weeks.

The figures shown on the following table, with their wide annual fluctuations, make it difficult to assess the value of whooping cough vaccine as an epidemic control measure. There is no doubt that if it does not prevent, it does modify the seriousness of an attack.

The value of the vaccine is in fact lost by delay in having the children immunised.

1948	5.68	/1,000 pop.	1951	6.46	/1,000 pop.	1954	2.10	/1,000 pop.
1949	0.18	"	1952	0.41	"	1955	0.05	"
1950	1.61	"	1953	8.00	"			

There is little doubt that many cases of Whooping Cough are not notified.

Sporadic cases of Infectious Jaundice are still occurring in the N.E. part of the area. Infectivity appears to be low.

Mumps and Chickenpox outbreaks have been present throughout the area in schoolchildren.

Diphtheria Immunisation.

Immunisation in relation to the Child Population.

Number of children at 31st December, 1955 who had completed a course of immunisation at any time before that date (i.e. at any time since 1st. Jan. 1941).

Age at 31.12.55 i.e. born in year.	Under 1. 1955	1-4 1954-51	5-9 1950-46	10-14 1945-41	Under 15 Totals
(1) Last complete course of injections (whether primary or booster) (a) 1951 - 1955	22	669	1029	895	2615
(b) ditto 1941 - 1950	-	-	266	302	568
(2) Estimated mid-year child population	300	1350	1500	1400	4550
(3) Immunity Index i.e. 100 $\frac{(1a)}{(2)}$	7.3	49.6	68.7	64.0	57.5

Combined Whooping Cough, tetanus and diphtheria immunisations or various combinations of these are offered for use at the recommended age of four months. The immunisation period extends over two months and it should be possible to have an immunity index of 50% for children under one year of age.

Many mothers delay immunisations until the child is nearly one year old and this accounts for the low immunity index of children under 1 year. It is more difficult to account for the low figure for the age period 1-4 years. A scrutiny of H.V. cards for children under 5 years indicates that at least 80% of children are immunised, so that the defect in our records is due either (a) to a failure of doctors to submit returns or (b) to H.V's accepting the mother's statement without further check.

During the year the following immunisations were reported as done:-

<u>Primary</u>	Diphtheria alone	52
	" plus Whooping Cough	208
	Whooping Cough alone	3
<u>Booster</u>	Diphtheria alone	157
	" plus Whooping Cough	53
	Whooping Cough alone	1

Smallpox Vaccination

61 primary vaccinations and 4 revaccinations were carried out during the year. Many of these are carried out on people proceeding abroad. The vaccinal state of the community is falling each year and the introduction of infection would result in the rapid spread of this disease.

If vaccination is carried out in infancy, it greatly reduces the slight risk of complications and in a community where a considerable proportion of people are vaccinated on entering the services, it is obviously worth while to have it done in infancy.

Tuberculosis

The number of cases on the register at 31st December, 1955 was as follows :-

	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
Pulmonary	72	41	113
Non-Pulmonary	10	7	17
TOTALS:	82	48	130

The following table gives the age and sex distribution of new cases and deaths for the year 1955. Deaths include all notified cases who may have died from other causes :-

Age Group	New Cases			Deaths		
	Respiratory M.	Respiratory F.	Meninges M. F.	Respiratory M.	Respiratory F.	Meninges M. F.
0 - 4	-	1	- -	-	-	- -
5 - 14	1	-	- -	-	-	- -
15 - 24	5	1	- -	-	1	- -
25 - 44	5	2	- -	-	-	- -
45 - 64	1	2	- -	2	5	- -
Over 64	-	-	- -	-	-	- -
TOTALS:	12	6	0 0	2	6	0 0

In addition to the above, the following alterations were made to the Register :-

	Male	Pulmonary Female	Non-Pulmonary Male	Non-Pulmonary Female.
Transfers - in from other areas	2	5	-	-
" - out to " "	4	3	1	1
Recoveries	5	1	-	-

The above results in a net increase of four pulmonary cases and a net loss of one non-pulmonary case. -15-

Preventive measures are taken to limit spread from active cases and to protect immediate contacts of cases by offering B.C.G. vaccination. In the Rural Area, 60 persons were vaccinated. A visit was paid by the Mass Radiography Unit to the Clay Area and the following results were obtained :-

- (1) Number examined 2552
- (2) (i) Newly discovered significant cases of tuberculosis
 - (a) Active 1
 - (b) Requiring observation 7
- (ii) Requiring no action 14
- (iii) Pneumoconiosis with tuberculosis 7 (4 previously known)
- (3) Other conditions
 - Silicosis 14 (3 previously known)
 - Bronchiectasis 1
 - Pneumoconiosis 9
 - Others 22

The scheme for the examination of the 13 year old school children was continued with the following results :-

Number examined	105	
Percentage Mantoux positive	13.1 %	
Number vaccinated	85	
Number X-rayed	65	- Inactive case found 1 other lesion 1

Educative measures in those infected and in those in close contact with them are of major importance and so also is adequate housing to allow segregation of infective cases..

Factories Acts, 1937 & 1948

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Premises (1)	M/c line No. (2)	No. on Register (3)	No. of Inspections (4)
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4, and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	1	8	6
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	2	68	33
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	3	-	
TOTAL:		76	39

Cases in which DEFECTS were found

Particulars (1)	M/c line No. (2)	Number of cases in which defects were found			
		Found (3)	Remedied (4)	Referred	
				To H.M. Inspector (5)	By H. M. Inspector (6)
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	4	3	3	nil	nil
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7) (a) Insufficient	9	2	2	nil	nil
TOTAL:		5	5	nil	nil

Part VIII of the Act

OUTWORK (Sections 110 and 111)

Nature of work (1)	M/C line No. (2)	Section 110	Section 111
		No. of Outworkers Section 110 (1) (c) (3)	No. of instances of work in unwholesome premises (6)
Household linen	15	1	nil

